Imposition of Anganwadi tax

700. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Standing Committee of Parliament on Human Resource Development has suggested imposition of 'Anganwadi tax' to mop up revenue for efficient functioning of aganwadis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal has been taken up with the Ministry of Finance;

(d) if so, the reaction thereto; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) While the Standing Committee of Parliament on Human Resource Development has not made any such suggestion, the Rajya Sabha Committee on Petitions, in its 129th Report, has recommended imposition of "Anganwadi Cess", to be absorb some of the additional expenses arising on account of further expansion of the ICDS Scheme.

(c) to (e) The recommendation of the Committee on Petitions is under consideration.

Amount Released Under ICDS in A.P.

701. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have released the amount under the ICDS to Andhra Pradesh during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount utilized by each Anganwadi Kendra in each district and for what purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and

(b) Yes, Sir. During the current financial year, grant-in-aid of Rs. 9204.66 lakh for implementation of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme and Rs. 5075.66 lakh towards Central Government's share for supplementary nutrition component of the Scheme has been released to Government of Andhra Pradesh, till date.

(c) ICDS is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented through the State Government/UT Administrations. Under the Scheme, the funds are released to the State Governments/UT Administrations and not Anganwadi Centres or Districts directly. States/UTs utilize the funds for implementation of the ICDS Scheme as per the norms approved by the Government of India. Utilization of funds is monitored through Statements of Expenditure (SOE) showing the item-wise expenditure and Utilization Certificate. Expenditure incurred in each District, Project or Anganwadi Centre is not captured in the Statement of Expenditure (SOE) or Utilization Certificate.

Status of anganwadi employees

702. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the status of anganwadi employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps Government have taken/are going to take for the welfare of anganwadi employees;

(d) whether Government are ready to fulfil the demand of anganwadi employees of the status of Government employees *viz.* increase in salary and pension etc; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The ICDS Scheme envisages the Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Anganwadi Helpers (AWHs) as honorary workers selected from local community who come forward to render their services, on part-time basis, in Anganwadi Centres. They are grassroots